

Message Text

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DEPT PASS TO DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR DOT/TPI-42: DETERRA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, ETRN, OTRA, JA

SUBJECT: EIGHTH US-JAPAN TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH PANEL MEETING

REF: (A) STATE 85938, (B) STATE 122055

SUMMARY: HERewith, MOT COMMENTS ON AND PROPOSALS FOR TRP MEETING IN JULY. ACTION REQUESTED: DOT COMMENTS ON PARAS TWO AND THREE. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF MET YOSHINO (MOT) MAY 27 TO DISCUSS REACTION OF MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION (MOT) TO PROPOSED AGENDA FOR MEETING OF TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH PANEL (TRP). YOSHINO CAUTIONED THAT FOLLOWING COMMENTS HAD NOT BEEN FULLY COORDINATED WITHIN MOT, BUT REPRESENTED ATTITUDE OF EACH RELEVANT SECTION OF MOT. YOSHINO POINTED OUT THAT FOUR ITEMS US HAS PROPOSED ARE BROAD AND SAID THAT MOT WOULD LIKE TO FOCUS FIRST THREE OF THEM AS FOLLOWS:

A) AGT: MOT WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS SAFETY OF AGT AND PLAN FOR ITS APPLICATION IN JAPAN

B) MAGNETIC LEVITATION: MOT WOULD LIKE TO COVER NORMAL-CONDUCTING ABSORPTION SYSTEM (WHICH IS A LOW-POLLUTION SYSTEM) DEVELOPED BY MOT AS WELL AS SUPERCONDUCTING REPULSION SYSTEM DEVELOPED BY JNR

C) ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL STRATEGIES: MOT WOULD LIKE TO FOCUS UNCLASSIFIED

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ON

1) CONTROL OF AUTO POLLUTION (FUMES) AND 2) OIL POLLUTION, ESPECIALLY ELIMINATION OF LARGE OIL SPILLS

2. COMPUTER TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEMS (CTCS): BECAUSE MOT DOES NOT HAVE RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS AREA, THERE IS NO AGREEMENT YET AS TO WHETHER THIS TOPIC SHOULD BE INCLUDED. IF "NEW ELECTRONIC ROUTE GUIDANCE SYSTEM" (NERGS) MEANS A SYSTEM USING SPECIAL SIGNALS, AGENCY RESPONSIBLE WOULD BE NATIONAL POLICE AGENCY, WHICH IS QUITE NEGATIVE TO COVERING THIS ITEM. IF, HOWEVER, NERGS REFERS TO MITI'S LARGE-SCALE PROJECT ENTITLED "COMPREHENSIVE AUTOMOBILE CONTROL SYSTEM TECHNOLOGY," THEN MITI WOULD BE COUNTERPART. MITI HAS NOT RESOLVED WITHIN ITSELF QUESTION OF WHETHER TRP OR SOME OTHER BILATERAL PROGRAM WOULD BE CORRECT FORUM IN WHICH TO DISCUS THIS PROGRAM.

3. EMBASSY NOTES THAT MR. RIKVD GADE DID NOT COME TO MEETING ON UJNR WIND AND SEISMIC EFFECTS PANEL MAY 19-29 AS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED AND THUS DID NOT RECEIVE BRIEFING ON NERGS. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION OF DOT'S DESIRES RE THIS AGENDA ITEM. IF DOT IS INTERESTED IN MITI PROJECT, EMBASSY WILL ASK MITI TO DECIDE ON FORUM IN WHICH IT SHOULD BE DISCUSSED.

4. IN ADDITION TO THREE TOPICS ABOVE, MOT WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE TWO MORE AGENDA ITEMS:

D) FINANCIAL SOURCES FOR IMPROVING PUBLIC MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION, INCLUDING 1) BASIC SYSTEM, 2) OUTLINE OF SYSTEM, AND 3) FUTURE DIRECTIONS, AND
IE) REGIONAL TRAFFIC PROBLEMS, INCLUDING PRESENT STATUS THEREOF AND COUNTERMEASURES THERETO. (MOT IS THINKING OF SOME RURAL REGIONS OF JAPAN IN WHICH NATIONAL GOVERNMENT EXTENDS FINANCIAL AID TO ENABLE OPERATION OF BUSES IN AREAS OF SPARSE POPULATION.) EMBASSY ASSUMES CTCS ITEM, IF IT APPEARS, WOULD BE MOVED TO BOTTOM OF EXPANDED AGENDA.

5. MOT IDEA IS TO COVER THESE ITEMS IN TWO DAYS, JULY 24-25. MOT PLANS TO HAVE GENERAL OPENING AND CLOSING SESSIONS, BUT TO BREAK INTO SEPARATE GROUPS FOR DISCUSSIONS IN EACH AREA. LOGISTICS (NUMBER OF ROOMS AVAILABLE, EXPENSE OF UNCLASSIFIED

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AN INTERPRETER FOR EACH ROOM) WILL THUS LIMIT NUMBER OF AGENDA ITEMS.

6. EXPO 75 IN OKINAWA WILL OPEN JULY 20 AND FIRST WEEK WILL BE VERY CROWDED. ABOUT TWO DAYS (INCLUDING ONE NIGHT'S LODGING ON OKINAWA) WILL BE REQUIRED FOR ROUND TRIP AND SEEING COMPUTER VEHICLE SYSTEM AND KAWASAKI RAPID TRANSIT SYSTEM AT EXPO. THUS MOT RECOMMENDS VISITING EXPO AFTER PANEL SESSIONS. YOSHINO SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHEN ANYONE COULD ATTEND FROM MOT. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT ARRANGEMENTS BE MADE AT LEAST A MONTH IN ADVANCE, AS HOTELS AND ALL FLIGHTS TO AND FROM OKINAWA ARE ALREADY FILLING UP.

7. PLEASE ADVISE.

HODGSON

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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